

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00 COA-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-10 IO-12 L-03 NSF-04

NSC-10 NSAE-00 PM-09 RSC-01 SS-15 OST-04 NSCE-00 PA-03

PRS-01 USIA-12 RSR-01 /156 W
----- 122583

R 052338 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 812

INFO AMCONSUL VANCOUVER UNN

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DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR TRAIN

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SENV, CA

SUBJECT: SKAGIT VALLEY

1. ENVIRONMENT MINISTER DAVIS ASSURED PARLIAMENT APRIL 5 THAT GOC HAS GIVEN USG OFFICIAL NOTICE THAT CANADA WILL NOT PERMIT THE FLOODING OF THE SKAGIT VALLEY. FULL TEXT TAKEN FROM PRELIMINARY PARLIAMENT STENOGRAPHIC RECORD FOLLOWS. BEGIN TEXT. " MR. JOHN A. FRASER (VANCOUVER SOUTH): MR. SPEAKER, MY QUESTION IS FOR THE MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT. ON APRIL 3 THE MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT SAID, CONCERNING THE SKAGIT RIVER: ' WE HAVE NOW HAD A REPLY FROM THE UNITED STATES STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS. THEY AGREE, IN PRINCIPLE, TO THE CONVENING OF A MEETING OR A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH THE TWO PRINCIPLE PARTIES WITH A VIEW TO TERMINATING A LONG- STANDING CONTRACT.' YESTERDAY MR. VICKERY, SUPERINTENDENT OF SEATTLE CITY LIGHT HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AND STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN ASSURED BY RUFUS SMITH, U. S. UNDERSECRETARY FOR CANADIAN AFFAIRS, THAT NO AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED TO END THE PROJECT. CAN THE MINISTER

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TELL THE HOUSE WHETHER THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS OFFICIALLY ASSURED THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA THAT THE ONLY QUESTION TO NEGOTIATE IS THE QUESTION OF COMPENSATION? HON. JACK DAVIS (MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT): MR. SPEAKER, NO, I CANNOT GIVE THAT ASSURANCE TO THE HOUSE. THE MAIN PURPORT OF THE STATEMENT I MADE WAS THAT AN AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES TO HOLD MEETINGS BETWEEN THE PRINCIPAL PARTIES, BRITISH COLUMBIA AND SEATTLE CITY LIGHT, WITH A VIEW, FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, OR TERMINATING THE AGREEMENT. MR. FRASER: A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION, MR. SPEAKER. TODAY MR. WILLIAM JOHNSON OF THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY ADVISED ME THAT THE OFFICIAL AMERICAN POSITION IS THAT OF SEATTLE CITY LIGHT. IN VIEW OF THAT CAN THE MINISTER ASSURE THIS HOUSE THAT CANADA HAS DELIVERED TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL NOTICE THAT CANADA WILL NOT PERMIT THE FLOODING? MR. DAVIS: YES, MR. SPEAKER." END TEXT COMMENT: FRASER PHONED DCM TODAY AND ASKED FOR US POSITION. DCM REPLIED THAT USG HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO TALKS, WOULD PROPOSE DATE IN DUE COURSE, AND HAD NO COMMENT ON ANY POSITIONS WHICH MIGHT BE SUBJECT OF SPECULATION EXCEPT TO SAY THAT POSITION OF SEATTLE CITY LIGHT WAS THAT IT SOUGHT APPROVAL OF ITS APPLICATION TO FPC TO ELEVATE ROSS DAM. FRASER GAVE NO INDICATION ON PHONE THAT IN COMMONS HE WOULD MELD POSITIONS OF USG AND SEATTLE CITY LIGHT. SCHMIDT

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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